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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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CONFIDENTIAL 922

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ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 NSC-10 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-08 NSAE-00 P-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 OPR-02 SY-03 RSR-01
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R 031820Z JUN 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5565
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
USDEL FRANCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zuber DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XD ☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8626

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF ~~PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION~~ LAW

REF: A. SAIGON 8462 B. SAIGON 8531

1. WHEN LOWER HOUSE MET JUNE 2 TO DISCUSS THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION LAW (REF A), OPPOSITION AND A FEW NORMALLY PRO-ADMINISTRATION DEPUTIES DEMANDED HOUSE DISCUSS THE ARREST OF DEPUTY NGO CONG DUC (REF B) AND THAT HE BE FREED BEFORE CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE ELECTION BILL. THE PRO-ADMINISTRATION MAJORITY WAS FINALLY ABLE TO PREVAIL AND DISCUSSION OF THE ELECTION BILL BEGAN IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DUC AFFAIR WOULD BE TAKEN UP IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. THE OPPOSITION ATTACKED THE CONTROVERSIAL ENDORSEMENT PROVISION OF THE BILL AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, UNDEMOCRATIC, AND CONTRARY TO THE DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE, AND ALSO ALLEGED SUPPORTERS OF THE ENDORSEMENT PROVISION HAD ACCEPTED BRIBES.

2. IN THE EVENING, WHEN LH WAS ABOUT TO TAKE A VOTE ON THE ELECTION BILL, DEPUTY NGUYEN DAT DAN (A SUPPORTER OF VICE

(21)

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PRESIDENT KY) TOOK THE FLOOR WITH A HAND GRENADE ANDI DEMANDED A ROLL-CALL VOTE. THE AIM OF HIS MANEUVER WAS TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR DEPUTIES VOTING FOR THE ENDORSEMENT PROVISION TO LATER CLAIM THEY DID NOT. AT ONE POINT A DOZEN POLICEMEN ENTERED THE HOUSE (PRESUMABLY CALLED BY PRO-ADMINISTRATION LH CHAIRMAN NGUYEN BA LUONG) TO TAKE THE GRENADE AWAY FROM DAN, WHICH CREATED A LIVELY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE POLICE AND ORATORICAL OPPOSITION DEPUTIES CONDEMNING THE "INVASION" OF THE LH. THE POLIK FI ALNY WITHDREW AND THE OPPOSITION DEPUTIES THEMSELVES PERSUADED DAN
TO GIVE UP THE GRENADE. SESSION
WAS THEN CLOSED ABOUT MIDNIGHT AND WILL RESUME JUNE 3.
BUNKER